

Roxobel, North Carolina
August 18, 2014
Regular Meeting

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00PM at the Roxobel Community Building located at 211 E. Church Street in Roxobel, NC. The following members were present or absent:

Present: J. Wallace Perry, Chairman
Charles L. Smith, Vice-Chairman
John Trent
Ronald “Ron” Wesson

Absent: Rick Harrell

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer
Clerk to the Board Sarah S. Tinkham
County Attorney Lloyd Smith
Network Administrator Joe Wilkes
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper
EMS Division Chief Matt Leicester
Economic Development Steve Biggs
Finance Director William Roberson

Media members present included Gene Motley of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald and Barry Ward of the Bertie Ledger-Advance.

Chairman Perry opened the meeting and thanked all of those present for their attendance, and thanked the Town of Roxobel for hosting this Community Meeting.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Wesson led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Perry asked the public to excuse Commissioner Harrell’s absence due to a previous work commitment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Monica Lassiter of Lewiston addressed all public present regarding their participation at the Board’s meetings. She stated that it was important for all citizens to be present for more than just the Public Comments section of the meetings, and that leaving early does them a disservice. She also stated that Bertie County is “everyone’s livelihood” and that all should be present for the duration of the meetings to receive the full picture of the County’s current state of affairs.

David Rimel of Roxobel thanked the Board for visiting the Roxobel Community. Mr. Rimel requested that the Board consider adding the Roxobel-Kelford Library to its Albemarle Regional Library System. He stated that reading is one of the most important things that a community can provide to its citizens, and that the library would benefit greatly from the County funding if it were to be added to the Albemarle Regional Library System.

APPOINTMENTS

District-6A and District-6B merger presentation by Hon. Brenda G. Branch and Hon. W. Rob Lewis

The Board deferred this item as Judges Brenda G. Branch and W. Rob Lewis were unable to attend.

Economic Development presentation by Mark Little, Eric Briet, and Stephanie Smith of the UNC Kenan Institute

Various students and graduates of the UNC Kenan Institute were present to deliver the “Blue Print for Bertie: A Community Economic Development Plan.”

The Board and public present received a copy of this plan.

Mark Little, Eric Briet, and Stephanie Smith presented to the Board regarding the County’s strengths, weaknesses, as well as recommendations to increase the Economic Development opportunities in the County.

Ms. Smith discussed the making of the plan and described the 15 month long process of meeting with citizens, public and pastoral leaders, non-profit organizations, as well as with youth members in the community.

Mr. Briet summarized the plan’s findings and provided various recommendations to increase the Economic Development opportunities in the County including: requiring high school students to complete the Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) process, adopting a Work Ready model, providing resources for students to overcome educational barriers, working to promote and advertise the County’s marketable sectors, etc.

Upon completion of the presentation, the public and the Board were given the opportunity to ask questions about the plan, as well as were given the next steps to begin implementation.

The Board commended the UNC Kenan Institute for all of their hard work and dedication to the project.

Commissioner Wesson commented that a lot of the problems that the County faces were put into a different, third party perspective, and that he appreciated the “fresh set of eyes.”

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Planning Board

The Board received notification of the two current vacancies on the Planning Board. No action was needed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve minutes for Regular Session 8-4-14

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes for Regular Sessions 8-4-14. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Approve minutes for Regular Session 8-6-14

Vice Chairman Smith made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes for Regular Sessions 8-6-14. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Tax Department Error Ledger – July 2014

County Manager Sauer recommended this item for approval.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to accept the Tax Department Error Ledger for July 2014 as recommended by the County Manager. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Accept 2015 State Holiday Schedule

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to accept the 2015 State Holiday Schedule. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Approve Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule for 2015

After some discussion, Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule for 2015. Vice Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Approve NC Forest Service FY2014-2015 County Cooperative Agreement

County Manager Sauer recommended this item for approval. He stated that this agreement is consistent with agreements in previous years and the approved budget.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve the NC Forest Service FY2014-2015 Cooperative Agreement. Vice Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Approval of Budget Amendments

After some discussion, Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the proposed Budget Amendments outlines in Budget Amendment #14-08. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Budget Amendment reads as follows:

BUDGET AMENDMENT				
# 14-08				
	INCREASE			INCREASE
42-8272-5396-01	\$	3,600	42-8272-5396-10	\$ 3,600
BLACK ROCK SUBDIVISION CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 (ADOPTED ON 4/7/14)				
	INCREASE			DECREASE
10-0025-4586-02	\$	2,694	10-5860-5351-00	\$ 2,694
10-5860-5351-00	\$	756	10-5860-5220-00	\$ 161
10-5860-5399-22	\$	346	10-5860-5399-08	\$ 1,270
10-5860-5330-00	\$	352	10-5860-5399-81	\$ 23
ADJUST BUDGET TO REFLECT FINAL NUMBERS FROM HCCBG				
	INCREASE			INCREASE
10-0040-4934-10	\$	826,651	10-9800-5980-40	\$ 826,651
30-0070-4981-13	\$	826,651	30-9100-5756-00	\$ 526,111
			30-9100-5756-01	\$ 300,540
TO SETUP BUDGET FOR HOSPITAL PAYMENTS				
	INCREASE			INCREASE
10-9800-5980-12	\$	10,241	DSS 12-0070-3981-10	\$ 10,241
10-9800-5980-61	\$	201	WI 61-0070-3981-10	\$ 201
10-9800-5980-62	\$	652	WII 62-0070-3981-10	\$ 652
10-9800-5980-63	\$	485	WIII 63-0070-3981-10	\$ 485
10-9800-5980-64	\$	334	WIV 64-0070-3981-10	\$ 334
UNEMPLOYMENT INS WAS BUDGETED AS A SINGLE LINE ITEM IN FUND 10 ALLOCATED UI FUNDS TO WATER FUND ACCOUNTS				
	INCREASE			DECREASE
51-5430-5193-00	\$	59,473	51-5430-5399-09	\$ 1,358,553
51-5430-5396-29	\$	908,121	51-5430-5430-01	\$ 371,041
51-5430-5399-18	\$	287,000		
51-5430-5399-62	\$	185,000		
51-5430-5991-00	\$	290,000		
TO ADJ BUD TO RELECT - AMENDED PROJECT ORDINANCE PASSED ON AUG 19, 2013				
	INCREASE			DECREASE
51-5430-5399-09	\$	110,551	51-5430-5991-00	\$ 110,551
TO ADJ BUD FOR CHANGE ORDER G-01 PASSED ON MAY 06, 2013				
	INCREASE			INCREASE

BUDGET AMENDMENT

# 14-08			
INCREASE		INCREASE	
51-5430-5399-09	\$ 13,498	51-5430-5991-00	\$ 13,498
TO ADJ BUD FOR CHANGE ORDER G-02/T-01 PASSED ON MAY 06, 2013			
INCREASE		DECREASE	
51-5430-5991-00	\$ 6,923	51-5430-5399-09	\$ 6,923
TO ADJ BUD FOR CHANGE ORDER G-03 PASSED ON SEPT 26, 2013			
INCREASE		DECREASE	
51-5430-5399-18	\$ 50,000	51-5430-5991-00	\$ 50,000
TO ADJ BUD FOR FURNITURE CHANGE ORDER APPROVED ON NOV 04, 2013			
INCREASE		DECREASE	
51-5430-5399-09	\$ 15,079	51-5430-5991-00	\$ 15,079
TO ADJ BUD FOR CHANGE ORDER G-04/T-02 PASSED ON FEB 03, 2014			
APPROVED ___/___/2014			

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Bertie EMS and Non-Emergency Transport (NET) Update

Emergency Medical Services Division Chief Matt Leicester updated the Board regarding current regarding 9-11 services.

Mr. Leicester stated that EMS is performing consistently with a response time of under 20 minutes for 94% of its calls.

He also informed the Board of a potential grant opportunity through FEMA. This grant has no County match, and it could supply enough funding for the EMS Department to purchase various pieces of capital outlay equipment.

Mr. Leicester also informed the Board regarding hiring for the NET Division. He stated that out of all 10 positions that were offered, 7 of those positions went to Bertie County residents.

Emergency Services Director, Mitch Cooper, also informed the Board of some new additional information regarding the NET Division.

He stated that as of tonight's meeting, the Bertie County NET Division has completed 15 total calls. 11 of these calls were BLS calls, and 4 were ALS calls.

Mr. Cooper also mentioned that at that moment, 2 other transports were currently in progress.

Mr. Cooper assured the Board that transports were being scheduled and that the phones have been ringing. He stated that various advertising materials were on the way to continue to spread the word about the County service, and that he was in the process of applying in surrounding Counties for franchise agreements approval.

Commissioner Wesson informed all of those present that an agreement had been reached between Bertie County and the Vidant-Bertie Hospital to allow County NET Service to receive calls for transports from any citizen that does not have a preference in a transport provider.

Mr. Wesson reiterated that a citizen has the right to chose what transport company that he or she would like to use, but that County tax dollar were being used to provide the County NET Services.

Surplus Property disposal

County Manager Sauer provided the Board with a summary hand out of the County's current surplus property.

Mr. Sauer requested feedback from the Board as well as County Attorney Smith regarding the property known as "Dr. Jordan's Office."

County Attorney Lloyd Smith informed the Board that as of 2008, the building was owned by Bertie Memorial Clinic, Inc. which is owned by the County and has been released from the lease between the County and Vidant.. He also discussed another corporation, Bertie All-County Health Services, Inc which is also owned wholly by Bertie County and owns a separate piece of real property which is being used by the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Smith discussed ways that title of the building and the other piece of property could be transferred to Bertie County, including dissolving the corporations or doing deeds from them to the County as appropriate.

Commissioner Trent voiced concerns about the building. He stated that the building currently has a serious case of mold, and the mold would make the house too unattractive to sell.

Commissioner Wesson stated that whether the County decides to sell or demolish the building, the title has to be back in the County's name for that to happen.

County Attorney Smith concurred.

The Board came to a consensus to have County Manager Sauer work with a consultant about examining the current mold problem in the building before moving forward.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to allow the County Attorney to research and advise the Board regarding the title to this building while still keeping cost in mind while seeking a conclusion to this matter. Vice Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

DSS Child Support Enforcement – YoungWilliams Contract Amendment

County Manager Sauer informed the Board of a Contract Amendment that would need to be made to the YoungWilliams contract as the original contract did not specify the responsible parties for both legal fees and genetic, paternity testing.

The proposed amendment states that YoungWilliams has agreed to cover the cost of legal fees while the County will cover the cost of the genetic testing.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to accept the amended contract. Commissioner Trent and Vice Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Commissioner Wesson thanked the Board and the public for allowing him to represent the County at the 2014 NCACC Annual Conference in Asheville, NC on August 15-17th.

He reported that 92 of the 100 counties in North Carolina were represented.

Mr. Wesson also commended his fellow Commissioner, Vice Chairman Smith, for his continued dedication to public service, and that he was honored at the event in Asheville.

There were no other Commissioners Reports.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

The County Manager had no remarks at this time.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The County Attorney had no remarks at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

John Davis of Merry Hill commended the individuals from the UNC Kenan Institute for their hard work and diligence in regards to this evening's Economic Development presentation.

Mr. Davis also thanked Commissioner Trent for his commitment to the County buildings, and that due to his expertise the County had been able to save tax payer dollars to remodel various County buildings over the past year.

Mr. Davis also recommended that all those interested in Economic Development should consider reading a book titled, *Local Dollars, Local Sense* by Michael Shuman. He stated that this publication provides great insight into local governments, and ways to improve their economic standing.

There were no other Public Comments.

ADJOURN

Chairman Perry adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm.

J. Wallace Perry, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board